

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

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P 161222Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8202

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SECSTATE FOR DIRECTOR EUR/CE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: EXCERPT FROM TV INTERVIEW WITH CHANCELLOR
SCHMIDT APRIL 15

REF: SMYSER/ANDERSON TELECON 4/15

1. THE FOLLOWING IS AN EXCERPT FROM A 45-MINUTE TV
INTERVIEW WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT WHICH TOUCHED ON A
WIDE RANGE OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC ISSUES. AS WAS
INDICATED IN REFERENCED TELECON, EMBASSY DOES NOT
PLAN TO COMMENT IN EVENT OF PRESS INQUIRY. SO FAR,
PRESS PLAY VERY LIMITED.

A. QUESTION: THILO SCHNEIDER (BAYERISCHER RUNDFUNK)
"MR. CHANCELLOR. YOU HAVE JUST SPOKEN ABOUT ITALY. IF
ONE WOULD READ A QUOTATION FROM KISSINGER WHICH HE MADE
OVER THE WEEKEND, WHICH IS, 'IT IS INCONCEIVABLE THAT
THE UNITED STATES CAN STATION LAND FORCES IN EUROPE IN
THE EVENT OF AN EXPANDED COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN
WESTERN GOVERNMENTS.' THIS WAS A REMARK MADE TO
BAVARIAN MINISTER PRESIDENT GOPPEL. NATURALLY, ONE THEN
ASKS IMMEDIATELY WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF NATO AND THE
MILITARY BALANCE OF POWER. DO YOU SEE THIS KISSINGER
STATEMENT IN THE SAME WAY? THAT THIS DEVELOPMENT COULD
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BE INEVITABLE?"

B. ANSWER: CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT. "FIRST OF ALL, I DO NOT CONSIDER IT INEVITABLE THAT GOVERNMENTS IN LARGE WEST EUROPEAN STATES WILL BE FORMED WITH A CONTROLLING COMMUNIST INFLUENCE. BUT THAT IS A MATTER FOR THE INDIVIDUAL STATES. THAT IS NOT A MATTER FOR THE ALLIANCE OR THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. SECONDLY, THE ALLIANCE HAS ALREADY TOLERATED THIS TWICE AND WAS ABLE TO ACCOMMODATE ITSELF WELL WITH COMMUNISTS IN THE GOVERNMENTS OF ALLIANCE STATES. ONE WAS PORTUGAL. THERE THE PARTICIPATION WILL PERHAPS END AFTER THE APRIL ELECTION - PERHAPS* THE OTHER WAS ICELAND, AND THERE IT HAS ALREADY COME TO AN END."

"AND I DON'T KNOW IN WHAT CONTEXT KISSINGER MADE THE REMARK WHICH YOU HAVE QUOTED. I DON'T KNOW IT IN THE ORIGINAL TEXT. BUT I DO FIND THAT - JUST AS I TRIED A MOMENT AGO - ONE SHOULD BE A BIT MORE RETICENT IN JUDGMENTS ON DOMESTIC POLITICAL EVENTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES. ONE SHOULD BE RETICENT EVEN WHEN ONE IS THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE LARGEST AND MOST IMPORTANT POWER IN THE WORLD AND ALSO OF THE LEADING POWER IN OUR ALLIANCE."
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 16 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Drafter: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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